

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. The amendment previously made to Fig. 6 is objected to. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

2. The summary of the interview by the Examiner, attached to the instant Advisory Action, is accurate. Agreement has not been reached on the claims.

3. The Advisory Action states that Applicants' statement in the specification concerning the torque required for installation is sufficient to imply the use of a threaded fastener. Advisory Action, p. 2, lines 3-4. The Examiner states that a threaded fastener could take the form of a nut and a bolt, as well as a fastener installed directly into the workpiece, as shown in the amendment to Fig. 6 filed on March, 26, 2004. The Examiner also states that since it is not inherent that a fastener extending through the workpiece takes the form of a threaded fastener directly threaded into the workpiece as shown in amended Fig. 6, the figure contains new matter, presumably because this depiction seems to exclude an embodiment that uses a nut.

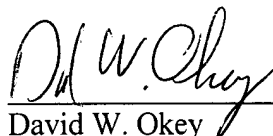
Applicants disagree. The amendment to Fig. 6 added a fastener 58 that was already depicted in as-filed Fig. 8 (also numeral 58). The specification states that fasteners may be used to secure the guide to the aircraft skin, using about 35 in-lbs of torque. Specification as filed, p. 11, lines 10-12. Control of torque to a specific installation value requires a nut, because otherwise the amount of torque applied to the bolt or fastener cannot be controlled. The amendment to Fig. 6 depicts a threaded fastener 58 drilled through skin 50 that fastens guide 62 to the skin. The drawing does not depict a nut on fastener 58 on the other side of skin 50. However, as pointed out by the Examiner, a threaded fastener as depicted in amended Fig. 6 is consistent with direct drilling into the skin with no nut. As shown in the specification, control of torque is consistent with a nut, which is not shown or claimed.

Thus, the amendment to Fig. 6, adding threads to fastener 58, is consistent with a fastener having a torque-controlling nut as implied in the specification, and is also consistent with a fastener without a nut, as shown in Fig. 6 and as noted by the Examiner. No new matter has been added to the application, because the threaded fastener as shown in amended Fig. 6 is consistent with either use. Accordingly, no new matter has been added to the application, and the Examiner is requested to withdraw the new matter objection.

4. The second paragraph of the Advisory Action concerned whether the references teach or suggest the features claimed in at least Claims 1, 12, 22 and 24, of fasteners drilled through skin or sheet metal. As discussed in previous responses, neither Glover nor Hunt teaches fasteners that hold the workpiece and also are drilled through the workpiece. Because neither reference teaches this feature, the combination also does not teach the feature. It is also not possible to take one teaching from one reference and to combine it with the second reference, because at least this particular feature is taught or suggested in neither. In order to make out a prima facie case of obviousness, the references must teach or suggest ALL the limitations of the claimed inventions. M.P.E.P. 2143 at 2100-129. Accordingly, Applicants continue to traverse the rejection.

5. Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the new-matter objection to the drawing, and withdraw rejections of Claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants submit that the Claims are in form for allowance, and respectfully request the Examiner to advance the claims to allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned if such will be of assistance to the Examiner or will help expedite the allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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